

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 AID-05 /074 W
-----020462 181827Z /45

O 181749Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4587
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
/AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE 0029

CONFIDENTIAL SANTO DOMINGO 2664

LONDON FOR ARA DAS BUSHNELL

PANAMA FOR ROBERT PASTOR NSC

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, DR
SUB: POST ELECTION STATEMENT OF PRD SECRETARY GENERAL PENA GOMEZ

1. IN A WRITTEN STATEMENT SENT TO MORNING PAPERS THE NIGHT OF MAY 17, JOSE FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DOMINICANO (PRD), CALLED UPON PARTY FOLLOWERS TO INITIATE A PEACEFUL MOVEMENT BACKING PRD VICTORY ACHIEVED IN TUESDAY'S ELECTIONS. HE FURTHER ASKED PRESIDENT BALAGUER TO AMICABLY TRANSFER POWER AND RESTRAIN UNITS OF THE ARMED FORCES THAT ATTEMPTED TO INTERRUPT THE VOTE-COUNT.

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2. PENA STATED THAT THE CAMPAIGN SHOULD CONSIST OF LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS DIRECTED TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER DEMONSTRATING THEIR SUPPORT OF "UNBREACHABLE" CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AND IMPLORING HIM TO TAKE STEPS TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION AND TO RESPECT THE VERDICT OF THE POLLS.

3. PENA MAINTAINED THAT BALAGUER COULD BECOME THE FIRST

DOMINICAN CHIEF OF STATE IN 100 YEARS AND THE SECOND IN HISTORY TO HOLD FREE ELECTIONS IN WHICH HE WAS A CANDIDATE AND CONSENT TO THE ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER TO A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION. THE PRD LEADER FURTHER EMPHASIZED BALAGUER'S COMMENDABLE POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS WELL AS HIS MILITARY LEADERSHIP.

4. PENA EMPHASIZED THAT THE FUTURE OF THE INSTITUTIONAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY RESTS WITH THE PRD AS WELL AS LIBERAL SECTORS OF THE GOVERNMENT HEADED BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND MEN OF DEMOCRATIC MENTALITY IN THE ARMED FORCES. HE WAS SURE, PENA WROTE, THAT BALAGUER WOULD RESPECT THE ELECTION RESULTS AND INVOKE HIS RECOGNIZED POWER AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES TO RESTRAIN MISGUIDED ELEMENTS OF HIS REGIME THAT ATTEMPTED TO INTERVENE IN THE PROCESS OF FREE EXPRESSION OF POPULAR WILL. THE PRD LEADER FURTHER ASKED THAT THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES OF THE COUNTRY AVOID ANY OCCURENCE THAT MIGHT "TARNISH" THE EXEMPLARY DEMOCRATIC BEHAVIOR CARRIED OUT BY THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE.

5. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST STATEMENT OF PENA GOMEZ SINCE MILITARY INTERVENED IN ELECTIONS EARLY MORNING OF MAY 17. PENA REMAINS OUT OF PUBLIC VIEW PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF CONCERN FOR OWN SAFETY. PENA, MOST CHARISMATIC LEADER IN PRD AND MOST FEARED BY MILITARY, IS VIEWED BY MANY AS KEY LEADER IN KEEPING COOL HEADS AMONG PRD SUPPORTERS IN CURRENT CRISIS.

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HIS WRITTEN STATEMENT TO PRESS IS NOTABLE FOR ITS MODERATION, AND PRAISE OF BALAGUER, AN APPARENT EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE PRESIDENT TO ENSURE HIS PLACE IN HISTORY AS A DEMOCRATIC LEADER.

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PRESS RELEASES, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 may 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: SANTO DOMINGO
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780544/aaaablit.tel
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Subject: POST ELECTION STATEMENT OF PRD SECRETARY GENERAL PENA GOMEZ
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, DR, PRD, (PENA GOMEZ, JOSE FRANCISCO)
To: STATE
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